

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03456 01 OF 02 221451Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13
HA-05 MCT-01 ACDA-12 COME-00 SSM-03 OPR-02 SY-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /103 W
-----020464 221600Z /75

O R 221345Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8378
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 3456

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: JUNE 22, 1978, 1300 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 3370 (DTG 191314Z JUN 78)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THERE WAS NO MAJOR VIOLENCE IN NORTH OR
SOUTH LEBANON, ALTHOUGH TENSION REMAINED HIGH IN BOTH AREAS.
NORTH LEBANESE LEADERS ACCUSED THE PHALANGE PARTY OF SEEKING
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03456 01 OF 02 221451Z

PARTITION. THE LEBANESE FRONT ASKED FOR AN END TO VENDETTAS.
IN SOUTH LEBANON, RIGHTIST MILITIA APPARENTLY FIRED TWO MORTAR
ROUNDS AT NORWEGIAN TROOPS. THE OFFICIAL LEBANESE NEWS AGENCY
CLAIMED THAT LEBANESE AND ISRAELI GUNBOATS HAD EXCHANGED FIRE,
BUT THE ISRAELIS DENIED THE ENCOUNTER. RIVAL PALESTINIAN
GROUPS CLASHED BRIEFLY NEAR SIDON. THE IRAQI MINISTER OF
INFORMATION IMPLIED THAT IRAQI VOLUNTEERS WOULD LEAVE SOUTH

LEBANON. AL MURABITUN TRIED TO MAKE A MAJOR INCIDENT OUT OF THE G-2'S ARREST OF THE MUKHTAR OF BASTA. AL MURABITUN'S LEADER, IBRAHIM QULAYLAT, CLAIMED HE WOULD NEVER CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER AGAIN. A NATIONAL MOVEMENT DELEGATION RETURNED FROM THE USSR. END SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL SECURITY SITUATION.

THERE HAS BEEN NO MAJOR VIOLENCE IN EITHER NORTH OR SOUTH LEBANON. TENSION REMAINS HIGH IN BOTH AREAS, HOWEVER, IN THE WAKE OF TONY FRANJIYAH'S ASSASSINATION AND THE REFUSAL OF RIGHTIST MILITIA TO ALLOW UNIFIL TO DEPLOY FARTHER SOUTH.

3. ZGHARTAWIS CONDEMN PHALANGE.

IN A STRONGLY WORDED STATEMENT SIGNED BY FATHER SIMAAN DUWAYHI, RENE MAWAD, SIMON BOULOS, SALIM KARAM AND ROBERT FRANJIYAH, "THE HIGHER POLITICAL LEADERSHIP" IN ZGHARTA ON JUNE 20 ACCUSED THE PHALANGE PARTY OF SEEKING TO IMPOSE ITS CONTROL IN LEBANON, PARTITION THE COUNTRY AND SETTLE THE PALESTINIANS THERE. ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENT:

- "BY THE MASSACRE OF 34 VICTIMS, INCLUDING OUR COLLEAGUE AND BROTHER TONY FRANJIYAH, AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO ELIMINATE A MARONITE FORCE WHICH THWARTED THE PLOTS OF THE PHALANGE PARTY AND ITS ATTEMPTS TO ESTABLISH HEGEMONY AND A ONE-PARTY
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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03456 01 OF 02 221451Z

SYSTEM, ATTEMPTS MANIFESTED BY PHYSICAL LIQUIDATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS . . ."

- "THE EXECUTION OF THIS ODIIOUS CRIME WAS PUSHED BY THE FAMILY WHICH CONTROLS THE PHALANGE PARTY BY TERROR, MONEY, AND IMPORTED IDEAS AIMING AT PARTITION AND, THEREFORE, AT THE IMPLANTATION OF THE PALESTINIANS. (THE FAMILY WAS NOT MENTIONED BY NAME, BUT A NEWLY CREATED ZGHARTA NEWS AGENCY CARRIED A CARTOON ON JUNE 19 SHOWING PHALANGE LEADER PIERRE GEMAYEL WITH AN AXE SPLITTING A CROSS, SAYING "I'LL PARTITION EVEN YOU".)

- "THE PHALANGE . . . WANTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH A KNOWN FOREIGN PLAN AND BY CARRYING OUT A FRIGHTENING PLOT, TO TAKE THE PLACE OF THE STATE AND TO PUT AN END TO THE LEGALITY AS WELL AS THE UNITY OF LEBANON."

- "OUR BATTLE WILL NOT END BY A RECONCILIATION BETWEEN OUR TWO FAMILIES . . . OUR BATTLE WILL END THE DAY WHEN THE STATE RECOVERS ITS AUTHORITY OVER THE ENTIRE NATIONAL TERRITORY AND WHEN THE CRIMINALS WHO PLANNED AND EXECUTED THE CRIME OF INDIVIDUALS ARE JUDGED."

4. LEBANESE FRONT ASKS FOR END TO VENDETTAS.

ON JUNE 21 THE LEBANESE FRONT, WHICH INCLUDES PIERRE GEMAYEL AND ONCE INCLUDED SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH, DECLARED ITS OPPOSITION TO "REVENGE AND VEDETTAS." THE FRONT CALLED FOR AN END TO INTER-MARONITE BATTLES AND WARNED THAT "THOSE WHO TRY TO DESTROY LEBANON FROM WITHIN ARE NOW MAKING ANOTHER ATTEMPT."

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03456 02 OF 02 230943Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 3456

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 11)

5. NORWEGIANS UNDER FIRE.

ACCORDING TO AN NAHAR, TWO MORTAR ROUNDS WERE FIRED FROM RIGHTIST CONTROLLED AL KHIYAM AT A NORWEGIAN CHECK-POINT AT

IBL AS SAQI IN SOUTH LEBANON ON JUNE 20. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES, THE PAPER SAID. THE SAME DAY, A NORWEGIAN SOLDIER STANDING GUARD AT NAQURAH WAS KILLED ACCIDENTALLY
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03456 02 OF 02 230943Z

WHILE CLEANING HIS RIFLE.

6. LEBANESE/ISRAELI NAVAL INCIDENT?

A. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL LEBANESE NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY, LEBANESE AND ISRAELI GUNBOATS EXCHANGED GUNFIRE ON JUNE 19, WHEN TWO LEBANESE PATROL BOATS INTERCEPTED THE FREIGHTER DIMITRIA COMING FROM LIMASSOL ENROUTE TO SARAFAND (A PALESTINIAN NAVAL BASE). ISRAELI NAVAL CRAFT THEN SEIZED THE FREIGHTER AFTER DAMAGING ONE OF THE LEBANESE BOATS, THE NEWS AGENCY SAID. ACCORDING TO RIGHTIST AL AMAL, THE FREIGHTER WAS CARRYING WEAPONS FOR THE PALESTINIANS, BUT AN NAHAR SAID SHE HAD A LOAD OF CONTRABAND CIGARETTES AND WHISKEY.

B. AN ISRAELI SPOKESMAN DENIED ISRAELI VESSELS HAD ATTACKED THE DIMITRIA. HE SAID AN ISRAELI PATROL SEARCHED BUT THEN RELEASED THE DIMITRIA WHILE TWO LEBANESE BOATS WERE NEARBY.

7. RIVAL PALESTINIAN GROUPS CLASH.

ACCORDING TO IKE, FIGHTERS OF THE PRO-SYRIAN POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE/GENERAL COMMAND (PFLP/GC) ENGAGED IN A ONE-HOUR GUNBATTLE WITH MEN FROM THE PRO-IRAQI PALESTINE LIBERATION FRONT (PLF) AT THE AYN AL-HULWAY REFUGEE CAMP NEAR SIDON ON JUNE 21. ONE PERSON WAS KILLED AND TWELVE WOUNDED, THE PAPER SAID.

8. IRAQI VOLUNTEERS MAY LEAVE.

ACCORDING TO AN NAHAR ON JUNE 22, IRAQI MINISTER IN INFORMATION SA'D QASIM HAMMUDI ADMITTED TO REPORTERS WHILE HE WAS IN BEIRUT THAT IRAQI VOLUNTEERS HAD COME TO LEBANON TO FIGHT BESIDE THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE. HE REPORTEDLY ADDED,
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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03456 02 OF 02 230943Z

HOWEVER, THAT WITH THE "RETREAT OF THE ZIONIST ENEMY FROM THE SOUTH, I THINK THAT THE PRESENCE OF THESE VOLUNTEERS IS NO LONGER JUSTIFIED."

9. ARREST OF MUKHTARY OF BASTA.

THE LEBANESE G-W RECENTLY ARRESTED, HELD FOR 5 DAYS AND SEVERELY BEAT THE MUKHTAR OF WEST BEIRUT'S BASTA AREA, ACCORDING TO VARIOUS SOURCES. ON JUNE 19 THE INDEPENDENT NASSERIST MOVEMENT (AL MURABITUN) HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE DENOUNCING HIS "KIDNAPPING." A LEBANESE ARMY SPOKESMAN SAID IDU HAD BEEN ARRESTED FOR STRIKING A LEBANESE NCO. VARIOUS SOURCES HAVE DESCRIBED IDU AS A SHADY CHARACTER INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES.

10. AL MURABITUN ROW WITH PRIME MINISTER'S GUARD.

AL MURABITUN LEADER IBRAHIM QULAYLAT TOLD THE PRESS ON JUNE 20 THAT HE WOULD NEVER VISIT PRIME MINISTER SALIM AL HOSS AGAIN. QULAYLAT MADE THE STATEMENT SHORTLY AFTER A POLICEMAN REFUSED TO ALLOW AN ARMED GUARD ACCOMPANYING QULAYLAT TO ENTER THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE WITH HIS WEAPON. QULAYLAT HAD COME TO PROTEST IDU'S ARREST, BUT STALKED OFF IN A HUFF WITHOUT SEEING THE PRIME MINISTER.

11. NATIONAL MOVEMENT DELEGATION RETURNS FROM USSR.

A DELEGATION FROM THE LEFTIST NATIONAL MOVEMENT RETURNED TO BEIRUT FROM MOSCOW ON JUNE 19 AFTER HOLDING TALKS WITH MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY, INCLUDING BORIS PONAMAREV, A CANDIDATE MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO, THE BEIRUT PRESS REPORTED. THE LEADER OF THE DELEGATION, DEPUTY FARID JIBRAN, REMAINED BEHIND IN THE USSR FOR A HOLIDAY.

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